Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend paragraph [0042] as follows:

[0042] An epidural needle has an elongate tube ~~defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal end, a distal end and an axial hollow bore therethrough. The needle has~~ and a hub with a proximal end, a distal end, ~~and~~ an open passageway having an inside diameter, and a cavity disposed between the proximal end and distal end ~~therethrough, . the~~ The hub ~~being~~ is attached to the elongate tube so that ~~the~~ a hollow bore of the elongate tube is in fluid communication and substantial axial alignment with the open passageway. ~~The hub further has a cavity disposed between the proximal end and the distal end of the hub. There is a~~A resilient member defining an opening therethrough is disposed in the cavity ~~with an opening therethrough that has an inner diameter disposed in the cavity so that the opening~~ and is ~~substantially~~ axially aligned and in fluid communication with the open passageway. The hub ~~of the epidural needle of the invention~~ has a clamp with a releasable latch disposed about the resilient member. The clamp is selectively movable between an open position wherein the inner diameter of the resilient member is substantially unaffected and a clamp/latch position wherein the clamp causes a strain to the resilient member and thereby reduces the inner diameter of the opening through the resilient member.